

Amendment dated November 18, 2008
Reply to Restriction Requirement of October 28, 2008

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 8, 24-30, and 40 were previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

Claims 9-14, 41-48, and 51-53 are withdrawn from further consideration without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein, as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-7, 9-23, 31-39, and 41-56 are pending.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has required restriction between the following groups:

Group I: Claims 1-7, 15-23, 31-39, 49, 50, and 54-56, drawn to a game machine classified in class 463, subclass 20; and

Group II: Claims 9-14, 41-48, and 51-53, drawn to a game machine classified in class 463, subclass 20.

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-7, 15-23, 31-39, 49, 50, and 54-56, drawn to a game machine, **with** traverse. Applicants respectfully submit that there is **NO** undue burden of search. The application is currently under examination and has received three Office Actions, one of which was accompanied by an RCE. Thus, all of the pending claims of both Groups I and II have already been searched **at least twice**. Further, there is **NO** distinction in the art, since the groups identified by the Examiner are grouped in the **same** class and subclass. Additionally, the subject matter is not divergent or raises separate issues based on the above.

Applicants respectfully request that all claims be rejoined and examined.

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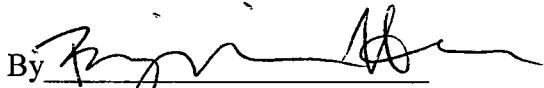
CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below if the Examiner believes any issues can be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment. In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: November 18, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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